

Subfamily Ekdantinae (Hydrobiidae), including the single genus *Ekdanta* Rao 1928,<sup>1</sup> is misplaced in Thiele's admirable system of classification.<sup>2</sup> Comparison with the family Syneeridae (Assimineidae)<sup>3</sup> will show that *Ekdanta* belongs near the genus *Paludinella* L. Pfeiffer, 1841, having almost identical characters of animal, radula, and shell. This similarity has been noted in the case of *Ekdanta shanensis* Rao (the genotype), recently received from L. C. Bulkley from Trang, Siam, and in the case of *Ekdanta colombiensis* (Heude),<sup>4</sup> recently received from C. C. Tang from Sa Hsien and from Futsing, Fukien Prov., China. *Assiminea scalaris* Heude 1890, from a fresh-water habitat at Shanghai, may belong to this group also. The radulae were prepared by S. F. Chen, research student at George Washington University, in studying United States National Museum material.—J. P. E. MORRISON.<sup>5</sup>

LITTORINA MINIMA (Wood).—During a visit to East Sister Key this past winter a number of these interesting mollusks in company with *Neritina pupa* L. were taken by the writer. These *Littorina* were living in the splash pools at about the high tide line. The larger specimens were somewhat eroded, largest measuring about 9 mm. in length, with the characteristic black spots being rather inconspicuous on the darker specimens. East Sister Key is located on the ocean side of Key Vaca, one of the Middle Florida Keys.—T. L. MCGINTY.

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## THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL UNION

BY IMOGENE C. ROBERTSON

The ninth annual meeting of the American Malacological Union was held in the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology in Toronto, Canada, Tuesday through Friday, June 20 to 23, 1939. Mr. Max-

<sup>1</sup> Rao, *Rec. Indian Mus.*, 30, p. 438, 1928.

<sup>2</sup> Thiele, *Handbuch der Syst. Weichtierk.*, Teil I, p. 149, 1929.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 168 and following.

<sup>4</sup> Heude, *Moll. Fleuve Bleu*, p. 123, pl. 31, fig. 17, 1890.

<sup>5</sup> Published by permission of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

well Smith, President of the Union, opened the sessions at two o'clock Tuesday afternoon, Dr. J. B. O'Brien, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Ontario Museum giving the address of welcome, to which Mr. Smith responded on behalf of the visitors.

Professor J. R. Dymond, Director of the Museum of Zoology, then gave, in "An Outline of the Organization of the Royal Ontario Museum," a comprehensive view of this great institution which comprises five separate museums, each having its own director. These are the museums of Geology, Paleontology, Mineralogy, Zoology and Archeology.

Following these introductory speeches, Dr. Paul Bartsch gave the first of the scientific papers, "A Synopsis of the Cuban Operculate Mollusks of the Family Annulariidae," which dealt with the results of a joint study by Dr. Carlos de la Torre and the speaker. The President then delighted the audience with a showing of two films: "The Cuban Meeting of the American Malacological Union," and "Dredging off Florida." "More about Father Kino," by Joshua L. Baily, Jr., and "Collecting Mollusks in West Virginia," by Gordon K. MacMillan, concluded the first day's program.

The second day's sessions opened at ten o'clock, Aurele LaRocque being the first speaker. His subject was "Canadian Malacology; Its History and Present Status." This historical sketch was followed by an appreciation of the late Honorable Justice F. R. Latchford, by John P. Oughton. "An Invasion of Mississippi River Naiades into the Northern Peninsula of Michigan," by Dr. Henry van der Schalie concluded the session.

A luncheon in the Museum Tea Room was given in honor of the Union by the Board of Trustees of the Royal Ontario Museum and was a most enjoyable and appreciated courtesy.

Following the luncheon three papers were presented. Dr. Paul Bartsch read a contribution by Dr. Harald A. Rehder on "An Interesting Bulimulus Problem" and Mr. Oughton read one by Dr. Ricardo de la Torre entitled "On the Probable Causes of Dispersion of Manganese in Jurassic Rocks." Dr. Abelardo Moreno gave a valuable report on recent "Anatomical Studies of Cuban Polydontes," illustrated with lantern slides of his superb drawings of the details of structure studied.

Two field trips had been planned to accord with the desires of those who wished lake shore collecting and the smaller group interested in Pleistocene fossils. Mr. Oughton led the first group to a favorable section of Sunnyside Beach where the eager collectors went immediately into action examining the drift for minute land and fresh-water forms which occur here in abundance. The fossil hunters, led by Mr. LaRocque, prospected more or less successfully in Don Valley Brick Yard, notwithstanding the merciless rays of the afternoon sun which added little to the joys of collecting.

Mrs. Frank R. Schwengel's delightful cocktail party in the Royal York Hotel at six o'clock was a refreshing finale to the hot afternoon.

The reading of papers was resumed on Thursday morning, the first being by Calvin Goodrich on "Phases of Lake Tanganyika Mollusea." This gave personal observations made on the occasion of the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich to Africa last year. The presidential address by Maxwell Smith followed, a valuable paper on "Distribution of East Coast Marine Mollusea together with a Survey of Tertiary Species," illustrated with numerous lantern slides.

A tour of the Museum under the leadership of Miss Ruth Home, had been arranged with special reference to the interests of the visiting ladies, and the meeting adjourned to allow for an inspection of the splendid exhibits in all parts of the Museum.

At one o'clock the ladies enjoyed a luncheon given them at the University Women's Club, with Mrs. J. R. Dymond, Mrs. L. L. Snyder and Mrs. John P. Oughton.

The afternoon program comprised papers as follows: "The Taxonomy of Naiades Inhabiting a Lake Environment" by Henry van der Schalie; "Non-Marine Mollusea in the Carboniferous of Nova Scotia" by Aurele LaRocque; "Land Snails New to the Fauna of Pennsylvania" by Gordon K. MacMillan; "Florida Shells," being kodachrome pictures by Harry B. Archer, Dan L. Emery giving the explanatory notes.

Before adjourning Mr. Harold R. Robertson presented an invitation from Dr. Louise M. Perry and Mrs. Frank R. Schwengel to hold a meeting in Sanibel, Florida, suggesting that the spring

months, April or May would be the most propitious time, although a Christmas meeting might be equally delightful. This invitation was received with pleasure to be considered at a future meeting when invitations from Dr. R. L. Wilbur for Stanford University and from Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews for the American Museum of Natural History will also be taken up.

Mr. William J. Clench read a letter from Dr. Frank Collins Baker regretting his inability to attend this meeting and asking an expression from the Union on the matter of eliminating the parentheses from names of authors in specific names. Since the practice causes endless research and consumes much valuable time, the motion to recommend to the International Commission on Nomenclature the wisdom of eliminating parentheses was adopted unanimously.

At the conclusion of the program the ladies attended a tea graciously given by Mrs. H. D. Warren in her charming home in Wellesley Avenue, so filled with art treasures and radiating hospitality.

The annual dinner was held in the Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto. This was the high point of the convention. Mr. Robertson acted as Toastmaster. Toasts were drunk in ginger ale to King George VII and Queen Elizabeth, to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt, to President Laredo Bru and Señora Bru, and to the absent members of the American Malacological Union. After the last toast, Mr. Robertson asked for a moment of silence in tribute to the members departed during the year that has passed, the Honorable Justice F. R. Latchford, Mr. E. G. Vanatta, and Mr. John McCausey.

Adjourning to the Music Room, the annual election was held resulting in the following Executive Council for 1939-40:

Honorary Presidents: Mrs. Ida S. Oldroyd, Dr. Henry A. Pilsbry, Mrs. Harold R. Robertson. President, Dr. Horace Burrington Baker; Vice-President, Dr. Harald A. Rehder; Corresponding Secretary, Norman W. Lermund; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Harold R. Robertson. Councillors-at-large: Dr. Myra Keen, Aurele LaRocque, Dr. Henry van der Schalie, Dr. H. E. Wheeler. Past Presidents: Dr. Joshua L. Baily, Jr., Dr. Paul Bartsch, William J. Clench, Calvin Goodrich, Dr. Henry A. Pilsbry, Maxwell Smith, Dr. Carlos de la Torre.

It was decided to hold the next meeting in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where the first meeting was held in 1931. This tenth meeting will especially honor Dr. Pilsbry, the first president of the Union and dean of American malacologists.

After the business session Dr. Pilsbry spoke briefly on a new *Cyphoma* recently discovered in Florida which is being called the "fingerprint" because of the characteristic lines on the body. Lantern slides illustrated the relationships of this and other species.

Mr. Goodrich gave a fascinating account of "A Short Visit to Equatorial Africa," illustrated with lantern slides of the countryside and people of this strange continent.

The program was brought to a close by a showing of moving pictures, an especially timely one being that taken the day before showing American Malacological Union collectors on Sunnyside Beach.

Friday was an ideal day for the picnic at "Glenorehy," the summer home of Mr. C. M. Heddle, on a branch of Oakville Creek. Here collecting in the wooded areas and in the creek was found productive, but of greatest enjoyment was the quiet beauty of the estate. The lodge overlooks the lovely valley of Oakville Creek and steep paths lead down to the foot of the bank which is nearly a hundred feet high. A luncheon of surpassing goodness had been prepared by Mrs. Oughton and her cheerful Committee which was enjoyed and appreciated by the happy picnickers whose appetites had been sharpened by the hours in the open air and the strenuous climbing.

Leisurely chatting, and at last the parting, to carry away grateful memories of the perfect arrangements carried out by the local Committee: Professor J. R. Dymond, Dr. L. S. Russell, Aurele LaRocque, G. E. Fairbairn, G. M. Neal, and last but not least, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Oughton.